

**STRICKEN END OF YEAR 2021**  
**AMENDED COPY AS OF 9/27/2021**

Intro. Res. No. 1660-2021  
Introduced by Legislator Trotta

Laid on Table 9/9/2021

**RESOLUTION NO. -2021, ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR  
COUNTY EMPLOYEE PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS USED FOR  
POLITICAL PURPOSES BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES  
ESTABLISHED BY UNIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Suffolk County government should ensure that all of its actions are in compliance with all local, state and federal laws relating to campaign finance, political assessments and applicable tax laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk County Legislature wishes to protect the rights of all County employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk County Legislature recognizes the right of county employees and county employee unions to freely contribute to the political campaigns and/or political parties in accordance with the law; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State Election Law requires that political assessments be voluntary and cannot be compelled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suffolk County Department of Audit and Control currently deducts, on behalf of county employee unions, a portion of the bi-weekly paychecks issued to numerous unionized county employees, providing the deducted funds to the Political Action Committee (PAC) and/or Super Political Action Committee (SPAC) of the public employee unions to which the member employee belongs; and

**WHEREAS**, such deductions are by definition a political assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned payroll deductions and subsequent disbursements to union PACs and/or SPACs or affiliated political committees are performed simply by virtue of an employee's membership in the public employee union that has adopted this practice without the individual, affected employee formally authorizing the Department of Audit and Control to implement said deductions; and

**WHEREAS**, the current practice of levying political assessments on behalf of Suffolk County employee unions via payroll deductions performed by the Department of Audit and Control without the prior written expressed consent of each individual employee is an infringement upon the rights of these employees and may be in violation of New York State Election Law; and

**WHEREAS**, it has further been alleged that Suffolk County employee unions have, in some cases, disbursed and/or utilized political funds received by means of county payroll deductions in a manner that does not comply with New York State and/or federal law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Audit and Control has not allowed employees to stop the political assessments from being deducted from their paychecks without the prior consent of the union to which they belong; and

**WHEREAS**, some county employees have expressed great concern over these deductions, the potentially unlawful way this money is ultimately being disbursed; and their inability to cease this deduction without obtaining the consent of their union's leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, some county employees have indicated that attempts to have their union stop these political payroll deductions have been met with resistance on the part of union leadership and some employees have indicated a reluctance to raise this issue with union leadership for fear of potential retribution, including, but not limited to removal from the union and loss of the rights and privileges that go along with membership; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, the Suffolk County Department of Audit and Control is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to establish a policy for the processing of county payroll deductions utilized for contributions to a political action committee (PAC), as defined by the New York State Election Law § 14-100, which will include, but not be limited to, a requirement that each employee individually sign authorizations to be filed with and maintained by the Suffolk County Department of Audit and Control approving deductions paid to the Political Action Committee (PAC) of any county employee union to be taken from paychecks issued to the employee by the County of Suffolk for the purpose of providing said deductions; and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that said policy will allow the employee to opt out of the referenced deductions at any time by written request made solely to the Department of Audit and Control; and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, the Suffolk County Department of Audit and Control must develop and implement this new payroll policy within 90 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

**4th RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED:

APPROVED BY:

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County Executive of Suffolk County

Date:

